



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.7708 | FAX (517) 373.1450

[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/gilbert/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/gilbert/)

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Contact: Scott Starr  
(517) 373-7708

## **Senator Gilbert Encourages Residents to Attend MDOT Deferment Hearings**

*M-24 in Lapeer at Risk of Losing Project Funds*

(LANSING) – M-24 in Lapeer County is at risk of its long-overdue construction funds being slashed, and today state Senator Jud Gilbert, R-Algonac, is urging residents to attend one of two Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) public information hearings to encourage the reinstatement of the previously scheduled project.

“It is mandatory for the movement of commerce and safety concerns of residents that M-24 is renovated, as the previous MDOT 5-year road plan promised,” Gilbert, chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, said. “I encourage all residents of the 25<sup>th</sup> Senate District to attend one of these public hearings to voice their opinions regarding funding for this critical road project.”

The first public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, June 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Port Huron Transportation Service Center, located at 2126 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, in Port Huron. The second will be conducted Thursday, June 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Macomb Transportation Service Center, located at 38257 Mound Road, in Sterling Heights.

Earlier this year MDOT announced that 34 critical statewide road projects were being “deferred” in favor of achieve its goal of having 90 percent of roads and bridges in good condition by 2007. Recently, Senator Gilbert conducted three public information hearings across the state to give Michigan residents the opportunity to voice their displeasure with the department’s “deferment” announcement.

“It is my desire to move our diversified economy forward by renovating and updating Michigan’s road network,” Gilbert said. “There is no question that we need to dedicate money to protecting the resources we already have now. But the price for neglecting our state’s increasing infrastructure needs is too high.”